SCENE V.

A public Place near Westminster Abbey.

Enter Two Grooms, strewing Rushes.

1 GROOM. More rushes, more rushes [3].

2 GROOM. The trumpets have sounded twice.

1 GROOM. It will be two o'clock ere they come from the coronation: Despatch, despatch.

*[Exeunt Grooms**

Enter FALSTAFF, SHALLOW, PISTOL, BARDOLPH, *and the Page.*

FAL. Stand here by me, master Robert Shallow; I will make the king do you grace: I will leer upon

9 —YOU RASCAL!] In the language of the forest *lean deer* were called *rascal deer*. See p. 73, n. 4. STEEVENS.

On this note the following observation has been made: "Doll could not speak but in the language of the forest. *Rascal* does not *signify rascal* but *lean deer*. See what it is to be on the watch to show a little musty reading and *unknown* knowledge."

Who, except this superficial writer, is so little acquainted with our author's manner, as not to know that he often introduces allusions to customs and practices with which he was himself conversant, without being solicitous whether it was probable that the speaker should have known any thing of the matter. Thus, to give one instance out of a thousand, he puts into the mouth of kings the language of his own stage, and makes them talk of *cues* and *properties*, who never had been in a tiring-room, and probably had never heard of either the one or the other. Of the language of the forest he was extremely fond; and the particular term *rascal* he has introduced in at least a dozen places. MALONE.

[1] More rushes, &c.] It has been already observed, that at ceremonial entertainments it was the custom to strew the floor with rushes, *Caius de Ephemera.*

JOHNSON.

Chambers, and indeed all apartments usually inhabited, were formerly strewed in this manner. As our ancestors rarely washed their floors, disguises of uncleanliness became necessary things. See note on Cymbeline, Act II. Sc. II.—In the present instance, however, the rushes are supposed to be scattered on the pavement of a street, or on a platform.

STEEVENS.